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**ANNUAL REPORT
of the
SOUTH CAROLINA
VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION
DEPARTMENT**

FISCAL YEAR 1982-83



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**J.S. Dusenbury
Commissioner**

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VOCATIONAL
REHABILITATION
DEPARTMENT
FISCAL YEAR 1982-83



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[Handwritten signature of Joe S. Dusenbury]
Joe S. Dusenbury
Commissioner

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL

The Honorable Richard W. Riley
Governor of South Carolina
The State House
Columbia, South Carolina

Dear Sir:

I hereby submit to the General Assembly, through you, the annual report of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department for fiscal year 1983, in compliance with the 1976 Code of Laws of South Carolina, as amended.

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department completed FY 83 having served 48,257 handicapped individuals, with the goal of helping in their preparation for employment.

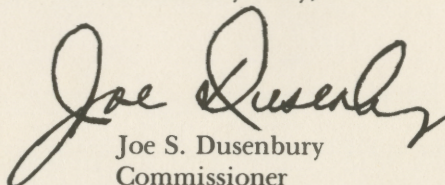
In spite of decreases in the size of the staff of the Department, handicapped citizens continue to receive quality services, though there has been a proportionate decrease in the number of clients the staff is capable of serving. The remaining staff have accepted the challenge of serving clients with the best possible services.

In keeping with federal mandates imposed by the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, the Department is serving a larger proportion of severely handicapped clients. Of the 7573 rehabilitated last year, 57% were severely handicapped. These cases usually take a wider range of services over a longer period of time.

The average cost of services per client has been only a modest increase due primarily to the increase in the cost of purchasing goods and services. In order to maximize the use of the total budget of the Department, fewer medical benefits are being provided by the Department in keeping with requests from the General Assembly to reduce spending.

The Department continues to maintain its top national standing based on the number of rehabilitants in comparison with other states. South Carolina is still an innovator in Vocational Rehabilitation and one of the most respected agencies in the country.

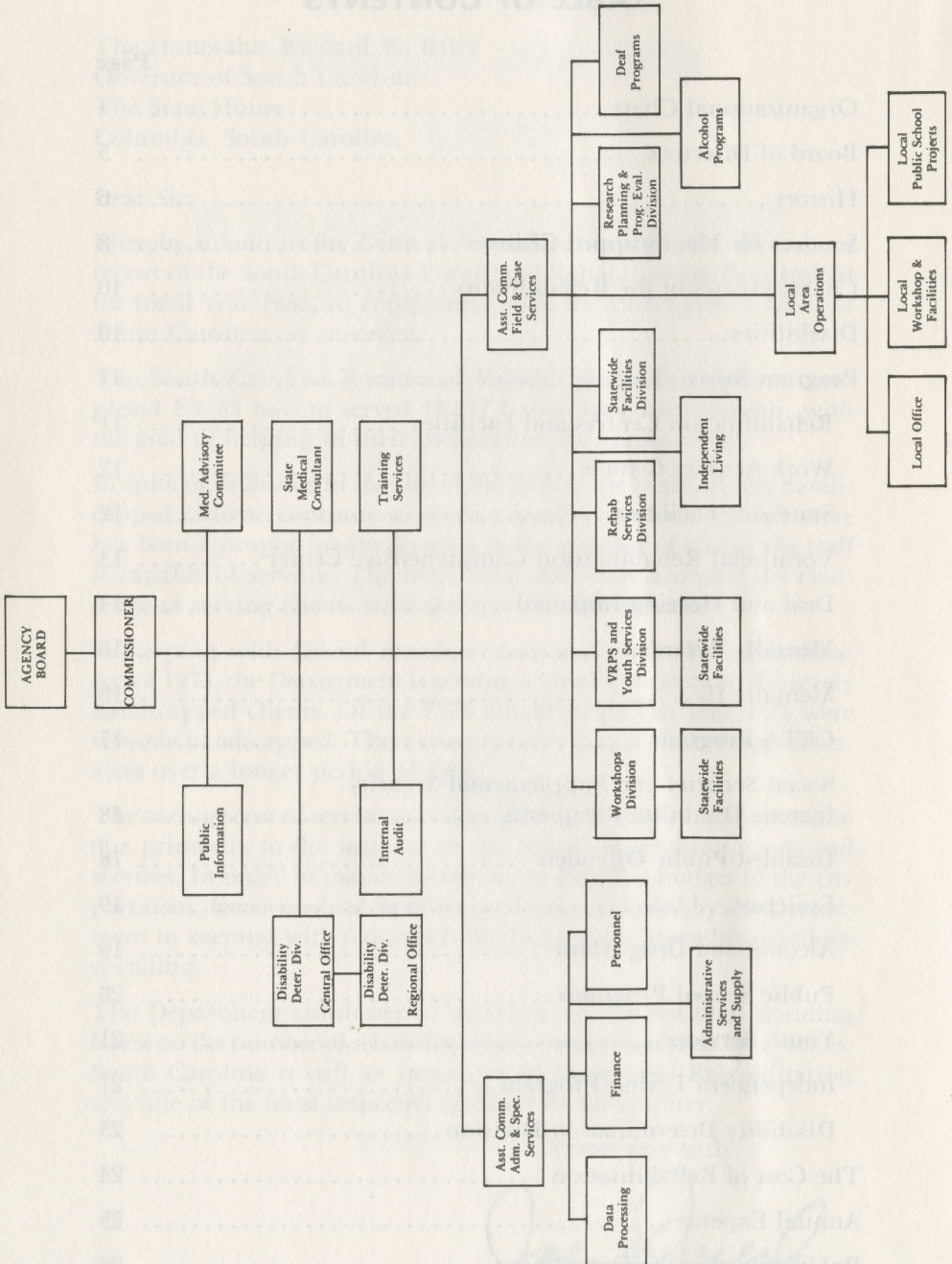
Yours very truly,



Joe S. Dusenbury
Commissioner

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BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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HISTORY

A large population of disabled veterans brought about by World War I created a need for a program to return the handicapped to gainful employment. On June 2, 1920, President Woodrow Wilson, by then a severely disabled man himself, signed into law an act making available financial aid to all states to help them develop programs of guidance, training, and placement for physically disabled persons who were vocationally handicapped. The legislation, known as the Smith-Fess Act of 1920, designated state departments of education as the administrator of state rehabilitation programs, since the main thrust of the program was centered in training.

Though funding was available immediately following this action, it was not until 1927 that such a program was started in South Carolina. The South Carolina General Assembly at that time authorized the State Superintendent of Education to accept the allotment of federal funds which was available for vocational rehabilitation and to establish the services in South Carolina. Thus the Division of Vocational Rehabilitation of the South Carolina Department of Education was created with a staff of two people.

The program operated primarily as a training division from that time, providing training for physically handicapped persons in vocational schools in Charleston and Greenville as well as through on-the-job training. The federal training program for disabled people continued until 1935 as a temporary program perpetuated by short-term Congressional extensions. The Federal Social Security Act of 1935 endowed it with permanent status within the framework of United States social legislation.

Under the original Vocational Rehabilitation program, services were restricted to physically disabled people. This excluded the mentally retarded people, emotionally disturbed people, people with epilepsy and handicapped persons confined in penal or correctional institutions. This concept changed drastically with passage of the Vocational Rehabilitation Act Amendments of 1943. It was at this time that rehabilitation services were extended for mentally retarded people.

The Act also provided that a rehabilitation client could receive any service necessary to realize his full employment potential. Federal funds were made available to provide handicapped clients with medical, surgical and other physical restoration services required

to remove, reduce or stabilize their disabilities, with the ultimate goal of gainful employment.

The Vocational Rehabilitation program began with 50-50 matching funds to assist states with programs for its disabled population. Financing the program was improved under the Vocational Rehabilitation Act of 1954 in order to help states improve their services. This act also made it optional for the program of vocational rehabilitation in the state to be administered by the Department of Education or by a separate Commission with the only stipulation being that the majority of the program funds be spent on efforts toward the vocational rehabilitation of the handicapped.

The South Carolina General Assembly, seeing this option as an opportunity for Vocational Rehabilitation to impact more fully on its handicapped citizens, passed legislation in 1957 to make Vocational Rehabilitation a separate State Agency with permanent Agency status.

Steps were taken to develop a network of local offices to better serve the major population areas in the State. Through local interagency systems and the physicians in the communities, the network of referrals began to grow. In 1960 the first Area Vocational Rehabilitation Workshop was established in Greenville to better meet the needs of a diverse handicapped community in areas of job exploration and work adjustment.

South Carolina was the first state in the nation to set up a rehabilitation facility within a state hospital setting to provide services to the institutionalized mentally ill. And South Carolina was one of the first states to work with the mentally retarded in institutions. To better utilize the tax dollar, the Department began to enter into cooperative agreements with other state agencies and institutions including Mental Health, Mental Retardation, Department of Corrections, Department of Education and the Medical University. The Cooperative agreement approach helped assure a complete service delivery system for the institutional population.

Since the beginning of the program, 216,999 disabled people have been placed in gainful employment following rehabilitation services.

SERVICES FOR HANDICAPPED CITIZENS

Offices across the state provide rehabilitation services to all South Carolinians with handicapping conditions. Uniform services are provided in each of the offices operated by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department.

In order to qualify for services through the Department, a person must have a physical or mental disability which for that individual constitutes or results in a substantial handicap to employment and a reasonable expectation that vocational rehabilitation services may benefit the individual in terms of employability.

A disabled person may need one or more services offered through the Department in order to prepare for his return to gainful employment.

COUNSELING AND GUIDANCE is a continuous service provided to all clients through the entire rehabilitation process. The counselor and client develop an individualized program of services according to the needs of the client, his interest and aptitudes, with the ultimate goal of gainful employment upon completion of services.

A thorough **EVALUATION** of the client's medical, social, psychological and vocational needs provides insight into potential for employment, as well as the nature and scope of services needed to lead the individual toward a suitable occupation.

All rehabilitation services contribute toward **JOB PLACEMENT**, and no client is considered rehabilitated until he or she begins working on a job suited to his or her vocational and physical ability. Every client receives **FOLLOW-UP** services to ensure that rehabilitation is successful and that both the client and the employer are satisfied.

Some clients may require additional services prior to job placement, such as adjustment services, training, provision of artificial appliances, or other related services.

ADJUSTMENT SERVICES provide within the vocational rehabilitation program assist the client in learning to deal with day-to-day problems, as well as getting along in the community and on the job.

Wheelchairs, limbs, braces, hearing aids, and other kinds of **ARTIFICIAL APPLIANCES** may be provided for clients who would otherwise be unable to perform satisfactorily on the job.

A client may also receive maintenance and/or transportation payments to allow him to get maximum benefits from other aspects of the rehabilitation program.

TRAINING in vocational and technical schools, business schools, as well as in colleges and universities may be sponsored by Vocational Rehabilitation, in keeping with the client's employment goals, if unable to obtain assistance through other sources. This equips the client with skills to improve saleability on the job market.

In addition, occupational licenses, tools, equipment and supplies may be included as a part of Vocational Rehabilitation services to increase the individual's prospects of successful employment or self-employment.

All services are expected to assist the client in a search for suitable employment, as it did last year for 7,573 handicapped South Carolinians.

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE REHABILITANTS

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department was successful in rehabilitating 7,573 clients during 1983.

At the time of referral:

88.9% were unemployed

19.2% were in tax supported institutions

60.3% were dependent on family and friends for livelihood

55.0% had less than 12th grade education

Of the people rehabilitated, 63.3% were male; 57.8% were white, 41.8% black and .4% other.

DISABILITIES

Rehabilitation of the handicapped has paid off as the disabled become productive. Services provided by the Vocational Rehabilitation Department are extended to persons handicapped by many types of physical and mental disabilities.

The rehabilitants served by Vocational Rehabilitation last year had these disabilities:

Type of Disability	Number of Rehabilitants
Mental Illness	3721
Mental Retardation	1167
Orthopedic Deformity	910
Digestive System Disorders	157
Hearing Impairments	322
Heart and Circulatory Conditions	266
Allergy, Endocrine Disorders	244
Genito-Urinary System Disorders	119
Epilepsy and Nervous Disorders	142
Visual Impairments	123
Respiratory Diseases	87
Absence of Limbs	83
Cancer	39
Speech Impairments	29
Blood Disease	20
Other	144

PROGRAM AREAS

Vocational Rehabilitation Centers

Vocational Rehabilitation Centers operated by the Department are designed to assist in the coordination, development and provision of comprehensive rehabilitation services to the handicapped citizens of the State of South Carolina.

A Vocational Rehabilitation Center has as its main emphasis the provision of comprehensive evaluation and adjustment training services. Vocational evaluation, including I.Q., aptitude, interest and dexterity testing, to indicate the functional limitations of the client, is provided by the staff of the facility. The center also provides comprehensive adjustment training, which may include personal grooming classes, world of work groups, activities of daily living classes, work adjustment through the utilization of contract activities, academic classes and other services as required. These centers serve all disability groups.

The Department operates a network of rehabilitation centers located in strategic areas throughout the state. The 15 community-based centers are placing emphasis on the rehabilitation of severely disabled people with an array of services geared to meet the individual needs of the handicapped clients.

Newly constructed buildings are owned and operated by the Department in a number of areas of the State: Charleston, Greenville, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Sumter, Conway, Aiken, Spartanburg, Columbia, Lancaster and Florence. These functional structures are designed specifically for providing quality services to handicapped individuals.

Other centers in the state are operating within rental space, which has been adapted for the most effective and efficient delivery of adjustment, evaluation and training services to handicapped individuals.

Centers are operated in the following locations:

*Aiken	*Florence	*Rock Hill
*Anderson	Greenville	Spartanburg
Bennettsville	*Conway	*Sumter
Charleston	*Greenwood	*Walterboro
Columbia	*Orangeburg	*Lancaster

*Work activity centers for severely mentally retarded in these facilities.

Work Activity Centers

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation have, through a cooperative agreement, set up work activity centers to provide services to people with severe mental retardation.

The work activity center program began with two centers, one in Anderson and one in Rock Hill, in 1973, with initial funding under the Developmental Disabilities Act. All are now operated jointly by Vocational Rehabilitation and the Department of Mental Retardation. Centers are now in operation in Greenwood, Aiken, Orangeburg, Walterboro, Conway, Florence, and Sumter. During 1983, a new activity center began operation in Lancaster.

Services offered in these projects include evaluation, personal and social adjustment, work adjustment, on-the-job training, as well as daily living classes.

The program is designed to take the severely mentally retarded population out of institutions and provide them with the training they need in order to take their places in society. The goal is to return them to the community so that they can earn a livelihood. Because of the severity of their disabilities, these handicapped people usually require a longer transition period before their employment.

The work activity centers served 268 mentally retarded clients during fiscal year 1982-83.

Statewide Facilities

The Department staffs projects within a number of facilities around the state operated by other state agencies and working in cooperation with other agencies.

Such facilities are located as follows:

Morris Village Alcohol and Drug Addiction Center, Columbia
Cedar Spring Facility for the Deaf, Spartanburg

Evaluation and Adjustment Center for the Deaf, Opportunity
School, West Columbia

Vocational Rehabilitation Evaluation Center, Opportunity
School, West Columbia

Dill Beckman Vocational Rehabilitation Facility, Ladson

Midlands Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia

Whitten Center Rehabilitation Facility, Clinton

Medical University Hospital Facilities, Charleston

Psychiatric Rehabilitation Facility

Speech and Hearing Facility

Cardio-Vascular Facility

Peripheral Vascular Facility

Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility

Referral Unit

Amputee Clinic

Public Offender Facilities

Manning Correctional Institution, Columbia

Watkins Pre-Release Center, Columbia

Correctional Institution for Women, Columbia

Wateree Correctional Institution, Boykin

Blue Ridge Community Pre-Release Center, Greenville

MacDougall Youth Correction Center, Ridgeville

Aiken Youth Correction Center, Aiken

G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, Columbia

State Hospital Rehabilitation Facility, Columbia

William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, Columbia

S.C. Department of Youth Services, Columbia

The Department also owns and operates the following statewide facilities:

Holmesview Alcoholic Center, Greenville

Palmetto Center, Florence

Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center, West Columbia

Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center

Severely handicapped clients in South Carolina have had some difficulty in the past in getting from one location to another in order to receive necessary services.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center in West Columbia has helped in alleviating this problem. The statewide facility is the only residential facility of its kind operated by the Department to provide services to its severely disabled clients.

The Center provides a program of services which is designed to meet the individualized needs of severely disabled people. Close coordination between the Rehabilitation team at the facility and the Vocational Rehabilitation counselor at the local level ensure that the clients of the Department receive maximum utilization of the service delivery system at the Center.

The Center can accommodate 35 clients at any one time, including residents and out-patients. Services at the facility include physical therapy, occupational therapy, hydrotherapy and activities of daily living. In addition, the Center is equipped and staffed to provide gait and mobility training, speech and hearing services, vocational and psychological evaluation and support services which consist of recreation, dining and residential care.

The uniqueness of the Center lies in the provision of these services in one location, thus eliminating the necessity of transporting Vocational Rehabilitation clients throughout the community or state for services which can now be provided at the Comprehensive Center. However, any services not provided at the Center can be coordinated with other agencies, facilities and organizations in order to provide maximum services to meet the individual needs of severely disabled individuals.

The Comprehensive Center is staffed to provide twenty-four hour services as needed. The barrier free building includes dormitory facilities for eighteen residents, and by residing in such a facility, clients learn to become more self-sufficient in taking care of their daily needs. This, in turn, makes them more suitable for employment once they return to their communities within the state.

A modular unit on the grounds of the Center provides supplemental adjustment programs serving as a transitional phase from the traditional vocational rehabilitation program into community living. The unit is architecturally barrier-free and serves a full range of severely disabled clients. The primary objective is to create awareness of the world around us and to develop the handicapped individual's ability to live independently.

During fiscal year 1983, 403 clients received services through the Comprehensive Center.

Deaf and Hearing Impaired

The Vocational Rehabilitation Program for the Deaf and Hearing Impaired is administered by professional and nonprofessional staff members located strategically throughout South Carolina to serve only the hearing impaired. Vocational Rehabilitation specialty staff receive extensive training in development of communication skills with the deaf as well as psychological and audiological aspects of hearing impaired.

The Adult Deaf Evaluation and Training Center, operated in cooperation with the Wil Lou Gray Opportunity School in West Columbia, serves severely disabled deaf individuals from across the state. Services at the Adult Deaf Center include guidance and counseling, evaluation, personal, social and work adjustment training, speech therapy, communication training (sign language and finger spelling), recreation programs and job training.

During fiscal year 1982-83, clients were referred by physicians, schools for the physically handicapped, artificial appliance companies, educational institutions, interested individuals, deaf consumers and other human service related programs.

Cases accepted for services under the program include the following:

	Served	Rehabilitated
Deafness, Pre-Lingual	487	66
Deafness, Pre-Vocational	57	11
Deafness, Post-Vocational	20	6
Hard of Hearing, Pre-Lingual	268	50
Hard of Hearing, Pre-Vocational	305	72
Hard of Hearing, Post-Vocational	396	117
	<hr/> 1,533	<hr/> 322

The Vocational Rehabilitation facility located on the campus and in cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf continues to work with the deaf students while they are attending Cedar Spring. Upon graduation the students are transferred to their respective home areas and services are continued until completion by the specialty counselors.

A continued effort is being made to provide adequate services through the local speech and hearing centers throughout the state and with the medical community. Also, more involvement with the deaf community and their organizations has continued to provide a channel of communication between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the hearing impaired population.

During the past year, the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department continued its cooperation with the South Carolina School for the Deaf, with the multi-handicapped unit housed on the grounds at Cedar Spring. This innovative program evaluates vocational needs of the multi-handicapped students and helps maximize their future employment goals based on individual capabilities.

These students have two or more handicaps and are being served by a specialty staff.

Mentally Retarded

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department also provides services to severely mentally retarded individuals in three state institutions. These services are geared to benefit mentally retarded people who need residential services rather than local community services, in coordination with the South Carolina Department of Mental Retardation.

Services to these clients include vocational evaluation, adjustment training, community resident placement, job placement, training and follow-up services to ensure that the client is progressing well in the new lifestyle.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Mental Retardation have also developed community residences within the state for those clients being transferred from institutions into competitive employment. This program allows for an extension of vocational rehabilitation services within the Vocational Rehabilitation units at the institution.

The Vocational Rehabilitation Unit at Whitten Center served clients from the institution population. Midlands Center is a state-wide facility, whereby clients are referred by Vocational Rehabilitation counselors in other areas for an individualized comprehensive program of services to meet the individual needs of the clients. At Coastal Center, the Vocational Rehabilitation unit serves the institutional population as well as reaching the communities through several public schools. This improves the delivery of services which would otherwise be unavailable for the retarded citizens in that area of the state.

During fiscal year 1982-83, there were 9,278 clients with the disability of mental retardation, of whom 1,167 were closed as successfully rehabilitated.

Mentally III

The Department also served a large number of mentally ill individuals referred from institutional programs and a wide variety of community agencies.

Cooperative programs have been developed with the Department of Mental Health to serve individuals in the State Hospital Reha-

bilitation Facility, William S. Hall Psychiatric Institute, the G. Werber Bryan Psychiatric Hospital, and the community.

During fiscal year 1982-83, there were 14,753 clients served and 2,536 rehabilitated who had been diagnosed as mentally ill, excluding those with alcoholism, drug addiction and drug abuse.

CETA Program

During FY 83, the Vocational Rehabilitation Department was one of the three major sub-contractors providing services to CETA participants who were involved in the various programs sponsored by CETA. The other two state sub-contractors which worked cooperatively with the Vocational Rehabilitation Department were Employment Service and Technical Education.

This program is funded through the Comprehensive Employment Training ACT (CETA) under the Department of Labor. It is designed to provide employment and training along with other individualized services to assist the economically disadvantaged and unemployed population of the state. The goal of the program is to allow individuals to receive services which will better prepare them to enter the labor market.

A number of these individuals under the CETA program have physical and mental disabilities, for which vocational rehabilitation services are appropriate.

Full-time Vocational Rehabilitation evaluators and caseworker assistants serve CETA applicants in the provision of assessment services statewide.

Fifteen assessment centers are available for ascertaining the CETA applicant's vocational potential.

Approximately \$795,583 was made available to the Vocational Rehabilitation Department for services and equipment through the CETA program, enabling the Department to provide 4,558 assessments to CETA eligible participants. A total of 588 medical evaluations and minor medical services were provided during the first quarter of FY 83. During this first quarter, full-time Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and casework assistants were funded to provide the necessary medical services.

Social Security and Supplemental Security Income Disability Recipients

Social Security Disability beneficiaries and Supplemental Security Income Disability recipients have been served by the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department since the beginning of the disability programs. Many of these severely disabled individuals have, as the result of rehabilitation services, been able to return to the labor market, no longer being in need of Social Security benefits or Supplemental Security Income payments.

Special funding was available to state vocational rehabilitation programs for this purpose, but has not been available since September 30, 1981. Since that time reimbursement of rehabilitation funds by SSA has been technically available upon request and proof that services rendered had positive impact on the outcome of the case.

The mechanism is in place to take advantage of reimbursement and the Department should begin to reap benefits from this in the near future.

Emphasis continues to be placed on serving severely disabled recipients of Social Security and Supplemental Security Income disability payments to assist as many as possible in returning to the labor market. All counselors now have the responsibility of serving the beneficiary/client in his or her territory over the state.

Disabled Public Offenders

Last year the Vocational Rehabilitation Department served approximately 6,507 public offenders and rehabilitated 1,278. The Public Offender Project provides rehabilitation services to public offenders within the institution and to ex-offenders in the community who are eligible because of a physical or mental disability. Services provided as needed are assessment, counseling and guidance, placement and follow-up.

The Department is working with a majority of the public offenders who are eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation Services. Through close coordination between the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and the Department of Corrections, the project is endeavoring to provide a better service delivery system to those public offenders eligible for Vocational Rehabilitation services.

The South Carolina Department of Corrections now operates seven work release centers and two pre-release centers. The Vocation-

al Rehabilitation Department is included in most of these centers to assist the client back into the community, as well as follow-up services once the client has returned to the community. The Vocational Rehabilitation counselor plays an integral part in assisting the public offender in his return to the community.

With the vocational rehabilitation services provided while the public offender is incarcerated and the services provided after release, a disabled public offender receives the reinforcement necessary to ensure successful rehabilitation.

The follow-up program for these clients who are deemed eligible for vocational rehabilitation services is now carried by nine counselors located in strategic areas of the state who serve primarily those clients who have been transferred from various institutions within the correctional setting.

Epilepsy

A concentrated effort is made through the Epilepsy Rehabilitation Facility at the Medical University Hospital in Charleston to provide the necessary services for clients with epilepsy and other seizure disorders. The facility was set up as a result of a grant through the Developmental Disabilities Act, specifically for these clients who need a well-coordinated delivery of services, usually for a longer period of time than many other rehabilitation clients. A major portion of their rehabilitation deals with educating the client and its family on the nature of epilepsy.

Last year 666 clients with a disability of epilepsy received services through the Department. This number includes clients from other areas of the state who are served by rehabilitation counselors in their home communities as well as 173 clients served by a full-time rehabilitation counselor at the Medical University facility.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse

During the 1982-83 fiscal year, Vocational Rehabilitation served 4,308 clients handicapped by alcohol abuse and 1,065 by drug abuse, of whom 939 alcoholics and 243 drug abusers were successfully rehabilitated.

Two treatment centers administered by Vocational Rehabilitation provide in-patient therapy to the substance abuser. Palmetto Center in Florence served 478 residents this past year, while Holmesview Center, located in Greenville, served 422 clients. Both centers support

the referring Vocational Rehabilitation field counselors who assume responsibility for follow-up services once the client returns home. Additionally the two centers operate out-patient and family therapy treatment groups.

Vocational Rehabilitation counselors and mental health counselors use the Earle E. Morris Alcohol and Drug Abuse Center for clients needing in-patient therapy for the misuse of drugs and alcohol. A Vocational Rehabilitation unit at the Center provides clients a comprehensive vocational assessment plus personal and social adjustment services.

Both Palmetto and Holmesview Centers offer a Community Training Seminar program for local community professional and lay persons upon request.

The programs for treatment of alcohol and drug abuse use other community resources such as Alcoholics Anonymous groups and other such organizations to augment their effectiveness.

Public School Program

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department through a cooperative arrangement with the State Department of Education and local school districts in many areas of the state provides rehabilitation services to eligible physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped students in secondary schools.

The services, which are the same type provided to other vocational rehabilitation clients, include counseling and guidance, personal and social adjustment training, medical and vocational evaluation and placement assistance to determine the type of work for which the student will be best suited upon completion of formal education. This program helps bridge the gap between school and employment for students who have vocational handicaps.

A program of services is also available for youth out of school. These individuals may be returned to school, placed in on-the-job training, or placed in some specialized vocational training program in keeping with their abilities and interests.

The Department has established 15 satellite workshops which operate within existing school programs. This work component has provided valuable work experience as well as monetary compensation in a competitive production environment as a part of the stu-

dent's overall curriculum. Students also receive Carnegie units for their participation in the work adjustment program.

There are school programs located in the following areas: Abbeville, Aiken, Anderson, Batesburg, Beaufort, Brookland-Cayce, Camden, Campobello, Charleston, Cherokee, Columbia, Conway, Dillon, Florence, Georgetown, Graniteville, Greenville, Greenwood, Irmo, Lancaster, Laurens, Lexington, Newberry, Oconee, Orangeburg, Pickens, Rock Hill, Spartanburg, Spring Valley, Summerville, Sumter, Union, York, and Walterboro.

Youth Services

The South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department has a cooperative agreement with the South Carolina Youth Services Department to provide rehabilitation services to eligible physically, mentally and emotionally handicapped youth within its statewide facilities.

This agreement has resulted in 401 youth being identified for vocational rehabilitation services during FY 83. Comprehensive vocational assessments were provided to 194 and vocational adjustment services directed at vocational independence were provided to 205 youth. Vocational Rehabilitation Department also helped sponsor 51 youth for GED training. Of the total youth served, 278 were transferred to local Vocational Rehabilitation programs within their own communities to continue services as part of, or as an alternative to, traditional probation/parole services.

Independent Living Program

The Independent Living Program assists severely handicapped individuals with limited potential to identify their needs in a variety of life situations and to explore alternatives for meeting those needs. The goal is to help individuals who happen to be severely handicapped to improve their quality of life and to function more independently in their homes, in society, in communities and at work or school.

The following case histories give a vivid description of the results of the program:

*A person with a work history as welder and laborer who was in an accident which left him with quadriplegia — this 30 year old black male came to Vocational Rehabilitation, but because it looked as

though he would not be able to return to gainful employment, he went into the Independent Living Program. He was unable to feed, clothe, or care for his general hygiene needs. He spent virtually all his time at home, completely dependent on others for his personal, business and other needs.

Services at the Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center and Life Skills Center have helped him attain a higher level of independence. He received occupational and physical therapy, personal and social adjustment, psychological services, community orientation, recreation therapy and leisure education, daily living skills training, speech and hearing evaluation, as well as medical services and a psychiatric evaluation.

He is now capable of dressing himself, taking care of his personal hygiene needs, and has increased his wheelchair mobility. He now has a van and is beginning to learn to drive again. He realizes that he is capable of increasing his functioning to a higher level, and possible to be able to do without assistance from his family.

*A mother of four children came to Vocational Rehabilitation because she was losing her level of functioning due to Multiple Sclerosis. She was unable to get around in her two-story house, and was unable to drive her car because of weakening in her hands.

She entered the Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center as a day client where she received vocational assessment and evaluation, financial management counseling, personal and social adjustment training, homemaking skills and community orientation training, as well as occupational therapy and physical therapy.

Vocational Rehabilitation helped in making her house more accessible so that she could care for the needs of her family. She gets around by using an Amigo Cart and is able to get upstairs by means of a stairglide. She is able to assume her role as mother and homemaker.

DISABILITY DETERMINATION DIVISION

The Disability Determination Division of the South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department is responsible for processing claims for disability benefits under the provisions of the Social Security Act of 1954 and the Supplemental Security Income Program which went into effect January 1, 1974. The Division is decentralized with operations conducted in Greenville, Columbia, and Charleston. Benefits from these programs are paid to individuals unable to work because of a mental or physical impairment. Payments will continue as long as the person's impairment prevents any substantial gainful activity.

The disability decisions are made jointly by a "team" consisting of a Disability Examiner and a physician. These professional personnel are trained in the evaluation of medical and vocational factors. It is their responsibility to ensure that sound medical evidence is obtained and that the decision to allow or deny benefits meets all requirements of the Social Security law.

At the end of 1982 nearly 2.8 million disabled workers were getting over \$1.1 billion each month from Social Security nationwide. In addition, some 2.3 million disabled and blind people were receiving about \$500 million in monthly Supplemental Security Income (SSI) payments.

In addition to determining disability, each claim is reviewed to determine if the individual has rehabilitation potential. A large number of former recipients have received services through the Vocational Rehabilitation Department and are now employed.

Because of a large number of re-evaluations in South Carolina, 10,364 in FY 1983 and 10,263 projected in FY 1984, it is expected that Vocational Rehabilitation will continue to receive a large number of referrals of disabled individuals who are not prepared to go directly into the work force. The employment of these people would mean a significant savings in government spending, but more importantly, these individuals would gain personal satisfaction as a result of their re-entry into the mainstream of society.

During the past fiscal year, the Disability Determination Division processed 55,701 claims for disability benefits.

THE COST OF REHABILITATION

Supporting unemployed disabled persons is a continuous cost year after year. The cost for rehabilitation per client was only \$3,531 last year — only a fraction of the annual cost per case at many state institutions such as prisons, hospitals and treatment centers.

A number of advisory committees and boards have been an invaluable resource to the Department in their planning and delivery of services to handicapped citizens. The Department has also used volunteers in other areas such as recreation in residential and other facilities.

ANNUAL EXPENSE

The total operating expense of the Vocational Rehabilitation Department during fiscal year 1982-83 was \$36,673,687. Of this amount \$34,515,833, or 94.1% was spent for "services to individuals." This includes counseling and placement of clients, including professional and clerical salaries, travel, communications, supplies, rent, office maintenance and equipment. These monies are spent also on diagnostic procedures, surgery, treatment, prosthetic appliances, hospitalization and convalescent care, training, equipment and licenses for clients, as well as for determinations of disability for SSA recipients.

The remaining \$2,157,854, or 5.9% was spent on administration of the Department. This includes administrative and clerical salaries, travel, communication, supplies, public information, rent, office maintenance, equipment, staff training, and data processing.

A comparison of expenditures for fiscal year 1981-82 and 1982-83 shows:

	FY 1981-82	FY 1982-83
Administration	\$1,991,489	\$2,157,854*
Basic VR Services Program	21,369,751	22,228,342
CETA	927,892	735,082
Work Activity Centers	632,232	620,097
Independent Living	151,935	142,465
Special Projects	229,820	—
Disability Determination	6,985,959	7,664,465
Workshop Production	<u>2,428,218</u>	<u>3,125,382</u>
Total Operating Expense	\$34,717,296	\$36,673,687

PUBLICATIONS

Annual Report — South Carolina Vocational Rehabilitation Department

Breakthrough — a pictorial, graphic and factual review of each fiscal year

New Horizons — a quarterly newsletter

From Dependence to Independence

Your Handbook of Vocational Rehabilitation Services

Palmetto Center

Holmesview Alcoholic Center

Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center

Program for Deaf and Hearing Impaired

50 Years of Service to the Handicapped

Client Handbook (Vocational Rehabilitation Comprehensive Center)

Independent Living Program

Journalism Contest

Special Licensing and Parking for the Handicapped

Handicapped Parking Tickets

Making South Carolina Barrier-Free

Vocational Rehabilitation Public School Adjustment Orientation Handbook

Profitable Partnerships

People . . . and People with Disabilities

